

THE WRONG WAY

Dr. Alexander Macleod tells how one day he was sitting in a train carriage, expecting soon to arrive at the town of Newburgh, on the banks of the Tay. The train came to Ladybank Junction, at which station it divided, one part of it going on to Dundee and the other part to Newburgh and Perth. Dr. Macleod heard a guard shout out, "Change here for Dundee"; but he did not hear the words that followed, "Change for Newburgh and Perth."

A few minutes later he said a man sitting next to him, "Is this right for Newburgh?" "It is, sir", he replied, "I am going that way too." Reassured, Dr. Macleod sat back in his seat, and the train moved on. The next station should have been Collessie, but when the train pulled up, the sign said Springfield. Turning again to his fellow-traveller, Dr. Macleod said, "This is supposed to be Collessie, not Springfield." "Oh, it's alright", the man said, "Springfield and Collessie are two names for the same place." After that, the train should have arrived at the little town of Newburgh, Dr. Macleod's destination, but as the train approached the next station, he looked out of the window only to see a great, spreading town, with many towers and church spires. At this point, the man beside him appeared shocked and troubled. "We're wrong, sir", he exclaimed,

"We're on the wrong train. We should have changed at Ladybank. This is Cupar on the way to Dundee!"

Alighting from the train, Dr. Macleod realized that, although he had an appointment within the hour at Newburgh, he was actually miles from there and no train was going to that place for another three hours. Sitting in the Waiting Room, he reflected on the mistake that had brought him such great inconvenience and loss.

He remembered the Bible verse, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). He thought about the great journey of life, and of the wrong ways men take on that journey, but then he thankfully recalled that he had entrusted himself to Christ – "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) – and that therefore he was bound for heaven.